Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EUR-12 AF-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, XA, IS

SUBJECT: AFRICAN REACTION TO ENTEBBE RESCUE OPERATION

- 1. YOHANAN BEIN, ACTING DIRECTOR OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TOLD THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR JULY 14 THAT "ISRAEL IS NOT DISCOURAGED" AT THE REACTION OF AFRICAN STATES TO ISRAEL'S ENTEBBE RESCUE OPERATION. HE MAINTAINED THAT THE PRIVATE COMMENTS MADE BY AFRICAN LEADERS REFLECT THEIR VIEWS MORE ACCURATELY THAN PUBLIC STATEMENTS WHICH ARE "REQUIRED" BY AFRICAN UNITY. POLITICAL COUNSELOR POINTED OUT THAT, WHATEVER THEIR PRIVATE VIEWS MIGHT BE, THE POSITIONS TAKEN AND VOTES CAST IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND MULTILATERAL MEETINGS BY AFRICAN STATES COULD BE DAMAGING TO ISRAELI INTERESTS. BEIN AGREED AND SAID THAT AFRICAN ACTIONS AT THE COLOMBO SUMMIT OF THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP WOULD BE THE KEY TEST.
- 2. COMMENT: IT IS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE THE IMPACT OF THE ENTEBBE ACTION ON AFRICAN STATES FROM HERE, BUT BEIN'S VIEW APPEARS TO BE UNREALISTICALLY OVEROPTIMISTIC. IT PROBABLY RESULTS FROM A COMBINATION OF WISHFUL THINKING AND INADEQUATE INFORMATION DUE TO THE LACK OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN AFRICAN STATES.

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